

**DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

Course Title	<b>HNC Construction and the Built Environment (Construction)</b>
Awarding Bodies	<b>Pearson / University of Suffolk</b>
Level of Award <sup>1</sup>	<b>Level 4</b>
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	<b>Institution of Civil Engineers Institution of Structural Engineers Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Chartered Institute of Building Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineers</b>
Credit Structure <sup>2</sup>	<b>Level 4: 120 Credits</b>
Mode of Attendance	<b>Part-time</b>
Standard Length of Course <sup>3</sup>	<b>HNC one and a half years part time</b>
Intended Award	<b>HNC Construction and the Built Environment</b>
Named Exit Awards	
Entry Requirements <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>A BTEC Level 3 qualification in Construction and the Built Environment</b></li> <li>● <b>A GCE Advanced Level profile that demonstrates strong performance in a relevant subject or adequate performance in more than one GCE subject. This profile is likely to be supported by GCSE grades at A* to C and/or 9 to 4 (or equivalent)</b></li> <li>● <b>Other related Level 3 qualifications</b></li> <li>● <b>An Access to Higher Education Diploma awarded by an approved further education institution</b></li> <li>● <b>Related work experience</b></li> <li>● <b>An international equivalent of the above.</b></li> </ul>
Delivering Institution(s)	<b>University of Suffolk at Suffolk New College</b>
UCAS Code	

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the HNC Construction and the Built Environment course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2022-23 academic year<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

<sup>3</sup> Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

<sup>4</sup> Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

<sup>5</sup> The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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### Course Summary

The Pearson BTEC Level 4 Higher National Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment offers students a broad introduction to the subject area via a mandatory core of learning, as well as units within general “pathways” while allowing for the acquisition of skills and experience through the selection of optional units across a range of occupational sectors at Level 4. Students will gain a wide range of sector knowledge tied to practical skills gained in research, self-study, directed study and workplace scenarios.

### Course Aims

At Level 4 students develop a broad knowledge and awareness of key aspects of the construction and the built environment sector through four core units, which include one unit assessed by a Pearson-set assignment. The core units are:

- Individual Project (Pearson set)
- Construction Technology
- Science and materials
- Construction Practice and Management

Students completing the Construction pathway will also undertake the following specialist units

- Legal and Statutory Responsibilities in Construction
- Construction Information

Each pathway will also a choice of optional units and specialist units from other pathways.

### Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the HNC Construction and the Built Environment course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)<sup>6</sup>.

- To equip students with construction and the built environment skills, knowledge and the understanding necessary to achieve high performance in the global construction and the built environment sector.
- To provide education and training for a range of careers in construction and the built environment, including civil engineering, quantity surveying, construction management, and architectural technology.
- To provide students with an understanding of the way technologies are transforming the industries of construction and the built environment, and prepare them to work with these technologies.
- To provide insight and understanding into diversity of roles with construction and the built environment, recognising the importance of collaboration at all levels.
- To equip students with knowledge and understanding of culturally diverse organisations, cross-cultural issues, diversity and values.

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<sup>6</sup> As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)  
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- To provide opportunities for students to enter or progress in employment in construction and the built environment, or progress to higher education qualifications; such as an Honours degree in Construction and The Built Environment or a related area.
- To provide opportunities for students to develop the skills, techniques and personal attributes essential for successful working lives.
- To support students to understand the local, regional and global context of construction and the built environment and, for those students with a global outlook, to aspire to international career pathways.
- To provide students with opportunities to address contemporary issues facing the industry, and society at large; with particular emphasis on sustainability and the environment, recognising the role that construction and the built environment plays in addressing these issues.
- To provide opportunities for students to achieve a nationally-recognised professional qualification within their chosen area of specialisation.
- To provide opportunities for students to achieve vendor accredited certifications.
- To offer students the chance of career progression in their chosen field, with particular emphasis on achieving management-level positions, professional recognition and beyond.
- To allow flexibility of study and to meet local or specialist needs.
- To offer a balance between employability skills and the knowledge essential for students with entrepreneurial, employment or academic aspirations.
- To provide students with opportunities to engage in an industry-recognised apprenticeship scheme that aligns with their employer's needs and their own career aspirations.
- To provide students with the context in which to consider professional ethics and their relation to personal, professional and statutory responsibilities within the industry.

We meet these objectives by:

- Providing a thorough grounding in construction and the built environment principles at Level 4, within general areas of specialism, that lead the student to a range of specialist progression pathways at Level 5 relating to individual professions within the construction and the built environment sector.
- Enabling progression to a university degree by supporting the development of appropriate academic study skills and personal development planning.
- Enabling progression to further professional qualifications in specific construction and the built environment areas by mapping to units in a range of vendor accredited certificates.

### **Course Design**

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / SFIA Competency Frameworks:

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The Pearson HNC Construction and the Built Environment has been benchmarked to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). It also meets requirements set by the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). The first stage of a Pearson BTEC Higher National in Construction and the Built Environment is the BTEC Higher National Certificate (HNC), which is aligned with Level 4 of both frameworks. This means that the HNC Construction and the Built Environment has the same level of demand and expectations as the first year of a degree programme.

### Course Structure

The HNC Construction and the Built Environment comprises modules at level 4.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	HNC Construction and the Built Environment (Construction)		
	Module	Credits	Module Type <sup>7</sup>
Level 4			
Unit 1	Individual Project (Pearson set)	15	M
Unit 2	Construction Technology	15	M
Unit 3	Science and Materials	15	M
Unit 4	Construction Practice & Management	15	M
Unit 5	Legal and Statutory Responsibilities in Construction	15	M
Unit 6	Construction Information (Drawing, Detailing Specification)	15	M
Unit 7	Surveying, Measuring and Setting out	15	O
Unit 20	Principals of Structural Design	15	O

### Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded an HNC in Construction and the Built Environment.

### Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Suffolk New College. Students undertaking the HNC are likely to have approximately 300 contact hours for level 4. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, guest speakers, field trips, seminars, workshops, tutorials, blended learning, and practical activities. Students will normally be expected to undertake 20 hours of independent study in

<sup>7</sup> Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

### Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately internally set assessments marked by the Centre and internally assessed projects set by Pearson. Assessments will include essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects, in class tests/examinations as well as practical assessments.

### Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

### Course Costs

Students undertaking HNC Construction and the Built Environment will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	Not applicable
Part time UK	£771/£1,028 per 15/20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	Not applicable
Part-time EU/International	£821/£1,095 per 15/20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

### Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).